PDC: Peace, Dialogue, Coexistence. Designing for living together.

The David Hakken Participatory Design Grant 2026

The David Hakken Participatory Design Grant recognises **one talented graduate student (PhD or MA research)** whose work demonstrates commitment to participatory design practices and/or thought leadership. Created in 2016, it honours the life, core philosophy and contributions of David Hakken, PD veteran, and member of the PDC Advisory Board.

The bursary's grantee will receive **free registration to attend the PDC 2026** in Milan, Italy, including a **contribution for travel and accommodation**. The grant includes **participation in one workshop of the grantee's choice and attendance at the Doctoral Colloquium**, if the grantee is a PhD student.

To apply, please fill in the following form **The David Hakken Participatory Design Grant 2026** by midnight, 20 January 2026 (CET).

Applications should include the following information:

- Full name of the candidate
- E-mail contact of the candidate
- A description of their work (max. 500 words)

All participants will be notified of their results, whether or not they receive the grant.

The conference organisers will provide a letter of invitation to the winner who will require an Italian visa.

A grant ceremony will take place during the conference at Milan, Italy between 16 – 19 June 2026.

Important dates:

- **Application deadline (form submission):**
  Midnight, 20 January 2026 (CET)

- **Notification of results:**

February - March 2026

- **Grant ceremony:**
  June 16th-19th 2026

David Hakken biography

Trained originally as a cultural anthropologist, Prof. Hakken had a long career doing ethnographic fieldwork, both in cyberspace and in real life. His abiding concern has been the complex ways in which social change, culture, and digital technologies (DTs) like computing, co-construct each other; that is, both how DTs shape, and how they are shaped by, culture. To this end, he studied worker education, public policy, and workplace use of information technology in Britain and the United States; software development in Britain, the Nordic countries, the US, and Malaysia; social service and technology (especially assistive technology for people with disabilities) in the US and Italy; and techno-science in US, Chinese and Malaysian scholarship and higher education. His ultimate teaching and research goal has been to promote DTs that expand, not undermine, human capabilities.